

of farmers, and soon after, the organization began lobbying in the Commonwealth's capital for the electrification of rural Daviess County.

In its early years, the Daviess County Farm Bureau supported the community through disaster and development. In response to the flood of 1937, the organization provided support to the local hospital, fire department, and Red Cross. The organization took on local issues; this included conducting a study to establish a tobacco warehouse and assessing warehouse charges related to the sale of tobacco. Daviess County Farm Bureau also established a food locker refrigerating and processing plant, formed a committee to head a funding drive—which ultimately raised a total of \$23,669—for Kentucky Wesleyan College, and started a successful newsletter in the “Messenger Inquirer”. In response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Daviess County Farm Bureau partnered with River Valley Behavioral Health to create the “You’re Not Alone” campaign, which sought to bring mental health awareness to rural communities.

Today, after a century of service to Daviess County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and farmers everywhere, the Daviess County Farm Bureau continues to serve as “The Voice for Agriculture.” By lobbying the county, State, and Federal governments, the Daviess County Farm Bureau ensures that the needs of its membership are communicated to and considered by elected officials. Daviess County Farm Bureau is also active in the Kentucky Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau.

In addition to its advocacy efforts, the Daviess County Farm Bureau still supports a number of local programs and organizations. These include 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America chapters, and local schools and teachers that incorporate agriculture education in the classroom. The organization also sponsors the Annual Farm Expo, the Farm-City Breakfast, and the annual Rooster Booster Breakfast hosted by the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce. Daviess County Farm Bureau is also responsible for administering several programs offered by the Kentucky Farm Bureau, including the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders—IFAL—the Leadership Enhancement for Agricultural Development program, and college scholarship programs.

A dedication to advocating on behalf of farmers and a love of community have defined the first 100 years of the Daviess County Farm Bureau's history. In celebrating this momentous milestone, we also cast a hopeful eye toward the future. I have no doubt that the Daviess County Farm Bureau will play an integral role in shaping that future.●

#### RECOGNIZING SIMON'S SHOES

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on

Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Simon's Shoes of Henderson, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Operating a small business requires unparalleled commitment and perseverance, traits that have been inherited to each successive generation of the Simon Family. Jacob Simon immigrated to Henderson, KY, from Lithuania in 1910, following his two brothers who made Henderson their new home years prior. He began as a peddler selling merchandise across the county, but at times found it difficult to attract clients due to his lack of English. Insistent on improving his craft, Jacob developed a sense of trust with the locals as his career as a peddler led him to become a steadfast member of the community. As such, it did not take long for Jacob to embrace Henderson as his home. In the following years, Jacob mastered English, became an American citizen, and opened Simon's Shoes in January 1919.

In addition to footwear, Simon's Shoes offered a diverse array of clothing, and the store quickly became known for carrying any type of garment one could desire, from suits to base layers. His childhood in Lithuania and initial years in America had taught Jacob key principles of saving and being conservative with money, which were integral to the success of his business and the store's ability to survive the Great Depression. When Jacob's son, Larry, became involved in the family business, they decided to narrow the focus of the store to specialize in shoes.

As the store continued to flourish, Larry, who eventually took ownership of the business, was able to purchase the former J.C. Penny building next door and use this space for the store's inventory. The decades of success made Simon's Shoes a destination for people across the State and beyond. To this day, residents from Evansville, Owensboro, Louisville, St. Louis, as well as tourists traveling along the Ohio River make the journey to visit Simon's Shoes. Customers are continuously attracted by their wide range of shoes, inclusive of varying sizes and widths, and their benefits as a full-service store.

Three generations of the Simon family have been involved in the operations of Simon's Shoes, the latest Simon to take the reins being Larry's son Bruce Simon. Even as the store passes down through the successive generations, the Simons remain active members of the business for as long as possible. In 1975, then 85-year-old Jake Simon told local newspaper “The Gleaner”, “When I draw my last breath, that store will be in my consciousness.” Likewise, Larry continues to visit Simon's Shoes often, stating that he would be in the store up to 6

days a week for several hours each day at 84 years of age. The Simons' passion for their business has grown into a now-century long catalyst for its success, as the store that once occupied a fraction of the building on First and Main Street now consists of three buildings on the same corner. Congratulations to the entire Simon family and to the whole team at Simon's Shoes. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

#### REMEMBERING REGINALD M. FELTON

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life of a dedicated public servant and a champion for education: Mr. Reginald “Reggie” M. Felton from my State of Maryland. Our community lost Reggie only a few days ago, at the age of 75. Today, I would like to take a moment to celebrate his extraordinary life and pay tribute to his lasting legacy of good works.

The story of Reggie's life can be defined by one word: service. He served our Nation in the military as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard and, later, as a Senior Executive within the Department of the Navy. He served his town and county as president of a local citizens association, as chair of the Silver Spring Center Citizens Advisory Board, and as chairman of the Freedom Fund Dinner organized by the Montgomery County Branch of the NAACP.

But most of all, Reggie served our students. With the trust of his community behind him, Reggie won a seat on the Montgomery County Board of Education in 1994. He would serve on the board for another 20 years, winning reelection in 1998 and 2002 and rising to become the first African-American president of the Montgomery County Board of Education, a position he held for three terms.

Reggie's commitment to the mission and spirit of the school board led to real results during his tenure. The Montgomery County School Board earned national recognition for excellence while Reggie served on the board, and it is no wonder why. Under his leadership, the Montgomery County Public Schools, which make up the largest school district in my State, saw major improvements in the quality of education and in the process for selecting and onboarding superintendents. Reggie also focused his efforts on establishing higher standards in curriculum, and those higher standards continue to inform a tradition of excellence at Montgomery County Public Schools that lives on to this day. In short: Reggie's time as president of the Montgomery County School Board helped make Montgomery County schools some of the best in the Nation.

Throughout his extraordinary life, Reggie Felton nurtured his talent for leadership, stepped up to serve his community and his country, and did all that he could to improve the lives of